THE CLAIMS

1. A tow hitch assembly for attachment to a towing vehicle, including:

a tow hitch arm having first and second ends;

first attachment means for pivotally and rotatably attaching the first end of the tow hitch arm to the towing vehicle;

second attachment means for coupling the second end of the tow hitch arm to a load to be towed;

positioning means disposed between said first and second ends of the tow hitch arm for manoeuvring the tow hitch arm into a coupling position; and

lifting means disposed towards the second end of the tow hitch arm for lifting the load to be towed into a towing position.

2. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first attachment means includes a ball and socket joint.

3. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second attachment means includes a hook for lifting the load to be towed.

4. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second attachment means includes a locking mechanism to securely fasten the second attachment means to the load to be towed.

5. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 4 wherein the second attachment means includes a pair of slots for receiving a pair of locking bars to securely fasten the second attachment means to the load to be towed.

6. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the lifting means includes a hydraulic ram for engaging with the ground beneath the load to be towed and for lifting the load off the ground.

7. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 6 wherein the hydraulic ram extends from within the tow hitch arm, and when withdrawn is substantially hidden from view.

8. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tow hitch arm rests upon a supporting member of the positioning means, and movement of the supporting member by the positioning means produces a corresponding movement of the tow hitch arm.

9. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 8 wherein the positioning means includes a plurality of piston arrangements for moving the supporting member.

10. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein the positioning means includes first, second and third piston arrangements arranged such that said first and third piston arrangements are connected between opposite ends of the supporting member and a base member and, the second piston is connected between the base member and a cylinder of the third piston arrangement.

11. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the assembly further includes a towing member for attachment to the second end of the tow hitch arm, said towing member being arranged for coupling to a vehicle such that said vehicle may be towed.

12. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 1 further including a trailer arranged for coupling to said second attachment means.

13. A tow hitch assembly as claimed in claim 12 wherein said trailer includes a recess for receiving said second attachment means, said recess including an anchor for engagement with said second attachment means.

14. A loading trailer for attachment to a towing vehicle including:

a towing end for coupling to a towing vehicle;

a loading end for receiving a load;

a plurality of wheels being movably mounted adjacent to the loading end, said plurality of wheels being movable between a loading position wherein the wheels are arranged to provide vehicular access to the trailer, and a towing position wherein the wheels are arranged to allow transport of the trailer during towing.

15. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 14 wherein the wheels are arranged to provide vehicular access to the trailer by arranging the wheels outwardly of the loading end.

16. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 15 including:

a pair of arms having first ends movably mounted to the trailer, elbows pivotably mounted to the trailer, and second ends pivotably mounted to the said plurality of wheels,

wherein the arms are pivoted relative to the trailer so as to forcibly lever the loading end into contact with the ground and to upwardly lever the wheels above the ground, and the

wheels are outwardly rotated relative to the arms whereby the wheels are arranged outwardly of the loading end.

17. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 16 wherein the wheels are pivotally mounted to the arms by coupling portions.

18. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 17 wherein the coupling portions include movable hooks which are adapted to support the weight of the trailer when the trailer is arranged in the towing position.

19. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 14 wherein the plurality of wheels includes a first and a second set of wheels.

20. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 19 wherein the first and second sets of wheels each include four wheels.

21. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 17 wherein the arms pivot relative to the trailer around a first axis and the coupling portions pivot relative to the arms around second axes which are substantially perpendicular to the first axis.

22. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 16 wherein the arms are forcibly pivoted relative to the trailer by a first set of piston arrangements.

23. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 22 wherein the wheels are forcibly rotated relative to the trailer by a second set of piston arrangements.

24. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 16 wherein the arms are moved synchronously and symmetrically.

25. A loading trailer as claimed in claim 17 wherein the coupling portions are moved synchronously and symmetrically.